[Translation]

KUNWAR SARVARAJ SINGH: Madam Chairperson, I have talked about security.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is alright, the honourable Minister has given reply to the question.

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR: Madam, Chairperson, through you, I would like to bring to the notice of the government a problem of my constituency. In my Parliamentary constituency, there is a vast area of cantonment where civilian people also live in a good number. Several villages are also connected with the cantonment but it is unfortunate that administrative officers of the cantonment close the passages without any prior notice. My colleagues standing before me who belong to Samajwadi Party are related with it but not listening to me. Recently a road was closed which is near to Bhartul village. The population of that village is 5000. Hundreds of acres of land is cultivated by the people there but they could not produce Rabi crop on that land after the road was closed and they are facing this problem today. This has happened due the approach of commanding officer of the Medical Field unit Ambulance Batallion. I have written also in this regard.

Madam Chairperson, through you I want to say to the Defence Minister that if necessary, the road should be closed, nobody has objection to it but the city people living in those areas have to make to and fro and some arrangement should be made for them. For this, the administrative officers of the cantonment area should be instructed that in the interest of villagers the proper steps should be taken and the road for movement should be opened.

[English]

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI (SAMBALPUR): Madam Chairman, I want to raise an issue relating to an unprecedented and irresponsible move by the Director-General, National Water Development Agency to shift the Chief Engineer's office located at Bhubaneswar to Allahabad. Not only this move is grossly illogical but it also has vested interest.

The National Water Development Agency is an autonomous society under the Ministry of Water Resources and was instituted in 1982 by the then hon. Prime Minister, Shrimati Indira Gandhi. After an expert study, the feasibility report has told that the office of the Chief Engineer should be located in Bhubaneswar and it cannot be shifted. But unfortunately, due to some political reason of something else which has been there, the Director-General has already instructed to shift it to Allahabad.

The Chief Minister of Orissa has written a letter to the Prime Minister and to Shri Janeshwar Mishra telling that the State Government is very much concerned over this news item.

At present, the office of the Chief Engineer (North), National Water Development Agency, Bhubaneswar is taking up survey and investigation of Manasa-Sankosh-Tista-Ganga and Ganga-Subarnrekha-Mahanadi-Godabari link canals. The above works will take considerable time for completion and for satisfactory progress of these works, it is imperative that the headquarters of the Chief Engineer (North), National Water Development Agency should continue at Bhubaneswar, furthermore, there is bound to be severe public resentment if an office functioning for several years at Bhubaneswar is shifted for no apparent valid reasons.

Meanwhile, the former Chief Minister and late lamented leader Shri Biju Patnaik also had written a letter to Shri Janeshwar Mishra. I quote his letter. It says:

"I am enclosing a copy of notice dated 12th March, 1997 regarding shifting of Chief Engineer (North), National Water Deveopment Agency from Bhubaneswar.

Although you had given me personal telephonic assurance on 17.2.97 that the proposal of shifting is cancelled, I will be grateful if you have taken any action in this regard, as assured by you again on 17.3.97 on telephone."

In this connection, the hon. Minister of Water Resources Shri Janeshwar Mishra has received a minimum of 25 letters from the hon. Members of Parliament, from the Legislators of the State, from the Chief Minister and also from the former Chief Minister and late lamented leader Shri Biju Patnaik. But he has not yet acknowledged even to the letter of the present Minister Shri Srikanta Jena also, which is most unfortunate.

Madam, Orissa has, always, been facing drought, flood and cyclone intermittently.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: If one person speaks for five to ten minutes then the rest of the members will not get an opportunity to speak.

[English]

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI: Madam, the post of the Chief Engineer (North), National Water Development Agency at Bhubaneswar was sanctioned by the late Shrimati Indira Gandhi. If the headquarter of the Chief Engineer's office is shifted to Allahabad, about 150 workers of Orissa, who are working there in different capacities, will be affected. In addition to that, the catchment area of not only Orissa, but also of West Bengal, Assam and Bihar also will not be taken care of.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Dr. Bhoi, please conclude in five seconds. Otherwise, nothing will go on record.

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI: Madam, I am just concluding.

So, I request the present Government and the Minister to immediately give a categorical assurance on the floor